

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A shelving unit comprising:
 - 5 a. at least a section of a vehicle tire, including a tread surface curving about a tire interior;
 - b. shelves mounted within the section of the vehicle tire within the tire interior, the shelves having lengths extending within an arc of the tread surface.
- 10 2. The shelving unit of claim 1 further comprising a back panel extending across an arc of the tread surface.
3. The shelving unit of claim 2 wherein
 - 15 a. a tire sidewall extends inwardly from the tread surface, and
 - b. the back panel is spaced from the tire sidewall, with the tread surface extending between the tire sidewall and the back panel.
4. The shelving unit of claim 2 wherein the shelves are affixed to the back panel.
- 20 5. The shelving unit of claim 2 wherein the back panel includes:
 - a. a fixed portion affixed to the tread surface, and
 - b. a removable portion pivotally affixed to the fixed portion.
- 25 6. The shelving unit of claim 5 wherein the shelves are affixed to the removable portion of the back panel.

7. The shelving unit of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of the back panel is pivotally affixed to the tread surface.

8. The shelving unit of claim 7 wherein the shelves are attached to the pivotally affixed portion of the back panel.

9. The shelving unit of claim 1 wherein the shelves are pivotally affixed with respect to the tread surface, and are thereby pivotable out of the tire interior.

10. The shelving unit of claim 9 further comprising a panel to which the shelves are attached, and wherein the panel is pivotally affixed to the tread surface.

11. The shelving unit of claim 1 wherein a transparent window extends across an arc of the tread surface adjacent the shelves.

12. The shelving unit of claim 1 wherein:

a. a tire sidewall extends inwardly from the tread surface to terminate in a sidewall edge,

b. spaced opposing shelf sidewalls extend within the tire interior outside a view defined within the sidewall edge, with the shelves extending between the shelf sidewalls,

whereby the view of the shelf sidewalls from the exterior of the tire is obscured by the tire sidewall.

13. The shelving unit of claim 1 wherein:
- a. a tire sidewall extends inwardly from the tread surface,
 - b. at least some of the shelves are transparent, and
 - c. a light is situated adjacent the sidewall.

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14. The shelving unit of claim 1 further comprising a bottom panel, wherein the tread surface has opposing sides each affixed to opposing ends of the bottom panel, with the tire interior being defined between the bottom panel and the tread surface.

- 10 15. A shelving unit comprising:
- a. a tire section formed from at least a portion of a vehicle tire, the tire section including:
 - (1) an arcuate tread surface;
 - (2) a tire interior defined within the arc of the tread surface, and
 - (3) at least one sidewall extending radially inwardly from the tread surface,
 - b. one or more shelves, each shelf being mounted within the tire interior to extend at least substantially horizontally therein.

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- 20 16. The shelving unit of claim 15 wherein:
- a. the shelves are affixed between opposing sidewalls, and
 - b. the shelves and sidewalls are removable as a unit from the tire interior.

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17. The shelving unit of claim 16 wherein the shelves and sidewalls are pivotally affixed with respect to the tire section, whereby they may swing into and out of the tire interior.

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18. The shelving unit of claim 16 wherein the shelves and sidewalls are affixed to a back panel extending across the arc of the tread surface.

19. A shelving unit comprising:

a. a tire section having

(1) a tread surface curving about a tire interior, and

(2) a sidewall extending radially inwardly from the tread surface;

b. a back panel spaced from the sidewall and extending radially inwardly from the tread surface; and

c. shelves extending horizontally within the tire interior:

(1) between portions of the tread surface, and

(2) between the sidewall and the back panel.

20. The shelving unit of claim 19 wherein the shelves are affixed to the back panel.

21. The shelving unit of claim 19 wherein at least a portion of the back panel is hingedly affixed with respect to the tire section.